Stanislaus County

Planning and Community Development

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354 Phone: (209) 525-6330

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STANISLAUS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REFERRAL

June 25, 2004

TO: Agricultural Commissioner-Steve Logan

The Alliance-Bill Bassitt

Consolidated Fire Protection-Shirley Koelmans

County Counsel-Jack Doering

Department of Environmental Res.-Nicole Damin Department of Environmental Res.-Bella Badal Natural Resources Conservation-Michael McElhiney

Sheriff (ATTN: Lt. Doug Leo, STARS) Hazardous Materials-Jim Simpson Chief Executive Office-Keith Boggs

CalTrans-Tom Dumas Cooperative Extension

Development Services-Ron Cherrier

StanCOG

Parks Department-Marty Johnson Valley Air District-John Cadrett Community Services Agency

Public Works Transportation-Brad Christian

Chief Executive Office-Raul Mendez

FROM:

Department of Planning and Community Development - Bob Kachel

SUBJECT:

ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF RECLAMATION - WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS DRAFT EIS/EIR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Stanislaus County has established an Environmental Review Committee, which consists of representatives of the Departments of Public Works, Planning and Community Development, Environmental Resources, Fire Safety, County Counsel, and the Chief Executive Office. The ERC meets every other Wednesday at 9:30 AM in the Planning Department Conference Room at 1010 10th Street, Modesto. The primary purpose of the ERC is to provide a unified County review and response to environmental issues associated with projects which are referred to the County. The Planning Department has been designated as the County Agency responsible for coordinating the review process. This referral may also be forwarded to you as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process.

Each agency should review the projects from the point of view of impacts on its own areas of responsibility. Please be as specific as possible in the expected degree of impacts including costs of providing services and possible methods of mitigating the impacts to acceptable levels including mitigation fees. Please complete the attached response form or provide a written response within 2 weeks.

The California Environmental Quality Act establishes very tight time frames for review. For that reason it is very important that a prompt response be provided. It is our hope that all County responses can be sent to the referring agencies as a package. However, in some instances the time for review does not permit that to happen. Some responses will have to go directly to the agency, with a copy to County Planning, while others can come back to Planning. Please note below the date responses are needed and where to send them. PLEASE SEND THE ORIGINAL OF ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE DIRECTLY TO THE AGENCY LISTED BELOW AND A COPY TO THE STANISLAUS COUNTY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT. Please contact me if you have any questions.

PROJECT AGENCY
U.S. Dept of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825

RESPOND TO Bob Eckart Att: MP 150 (916) 978-5051 RESPONSE DATE August 2, 2004

STANISLAUS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REFERRAL RESPONSE FORM

то:	Stanislaus County Planning & Community Development 1010 10 th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354		
FROM:			
SUBJECT:	RECLAMATION - V	VATER TRANSFER PROG	MENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF RAM FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER VAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
Based on this	agencies particular fiel	d(s) of expertise, it is our posi	tion the above described project:
		icant effect on the environment effect on the environment.	nt.
types, air qual 1. 2. 3. 4. Listed below a 1. 2. 3. 4.	ity, etc.) - (attach addition	ch support our determination onal sheet if necessary) neasures for the above-listed ing comments (attach addition	·
Response pre	pared by:		
Name	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Title	Date

cc: Debbie Whitmore, Angela Freitas, Sara Lytle-Pinhey

SENT TO LORI BLAIR-HARVEY TO BE DISTRIBUTED VIA EMAIL

News Release

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

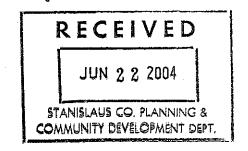
Mid-Pacific Region Sacramento, CA

MP-04-047

Media Contact: Jeffrey S. McCracken, 916-978-5100

jmccracken@mp.usbr.gov

For Immediate Release: June 16, 2004



WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS DRAFT EIS/EIR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Bureau of Reclamation, the lead Federal agency, and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), the State lead agency, have released for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), "The San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority 2005-2014," a 10-year water transfer program. The 45-day public comment period begins on Friday, June 18, 2004.

The Draft EIS/EIR evaluates the transfer of up to 130,000 acre-feet of substitute water (maximum of 80,000 acre-feet of developed water and a maximum of 50,000 acre-feet from land fallowing/crop idling) from the Exchange Contractors to other Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors, to Reclamation for delivery to the San Joaquin Valley wetland habitat areas (wildlife refuges) and Department of Water Resources for use by the CALFED Environmental Water Account as replacement water for CVP contractors. Reclamation would approve and/or execute short-term and/or long-term temporary water transfers or agreements.

A public hearing on the Draft EIS/EIR will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 2004, 5-7 p.m., Miller and Lux Building, 830 Sixth Street, Los Banos, California 93635.

Written comments must be received by close of business on Monday, August 2, 2004. Please mail comments to: Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: MP-150, Bob Eckart, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. Comments may also be faxed to 916-978-5055 or e-mailed to REckart@mp.usbr.gov. The Draft EIS/EIR is available on Reclamation's web site at www.usbr.gov/mp. To request a hard copy or CD of the Draft EIS/EIR, please contact Joann Toscano, Exchange Contractors, at 209-827-8616. For further information, contact Bob Eckart at 916-978-5051.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

